



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 111th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 155

WASHINGTON, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2009

No. 137

Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, whose spirit searches all things, send us Your truth and mercy today. Guide our lawmakers along a path that leads to the hearts and needs of those on life's stormy seas. Give our Senators a grace that will take away fear and provide them with courage and faith. Increase their understanding of the scope of their tasks as servants of Your kingdom, as You inspire them to stay within the circle of Your loving providence. Lord, imbue them with understanding and sympathy, as well as with a sense of justice that they may be champions of liberty and instruments of Your peace. May this be a day in which the Senate exemplifies to America unity, courage, and civility. Today, as we welcome a new lawmaker, we ask Your blessings for the Honorable PAUL KIRK, Jr.

We pray in the Redeemer's Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable JEFF MERKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. BYRD).

The assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, September 25, 2009.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY, a Senator from the State of Oregon, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ROBERT C. BYRD,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MERKLEY thereupon assumed the chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, following leader remarks, the Senate will resume consideration of the appropriations bill for the Department of Defense. There will be no rollcall votes during today's session, but at 3:30 p.m. today, PAUL KIRK will be sworn in as the new Senator from Massachusetts, filling in for the late Senator Kennedy.

As I speak, we have an international war on terrorism, we have American troops stationed in Iraq and Afghanistan, and we have a Defense appropriations bill which is now before the Senate. The appointment of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Michael Mullen, expires on September 30. It would be absolutely unacceptable to allow his position to be vacant at a time when our Nation is so engaged internationally. I hope we can count on the cooperation of all my colleagues in allowing this nomination to proceed without delay—immediately.

Mr. President, would you announce the business of today.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3326, which the clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3326) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I submit pursuant to Senate rules a report, and I ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

I certify that the information required by rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate related to congressionally directed spending items has been identified in the committee report which accompanies H.R. 3326 and that the required information has been available on a publicly accessible congressional website at least 48 hours before a vote on the pending bill.

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HEALTH CARE

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, for at least several months, Congress, as we

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S9861